

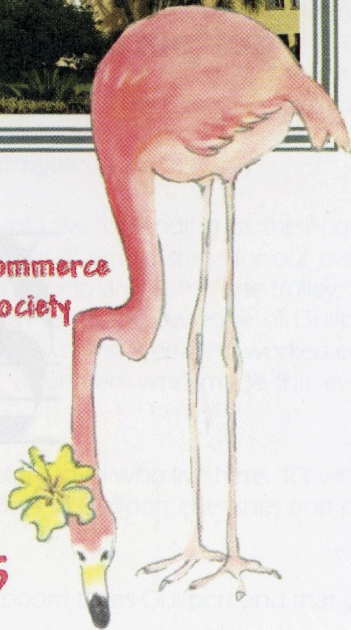
Gulfport's Pink Flamingo Tour of Homes

2nd Annual



Sponsored by
The Gulfport Chamber of Commerce
The Gulfport Historical Society
The City of Gulfport
Stetson University
College of Law

June 4th 2005



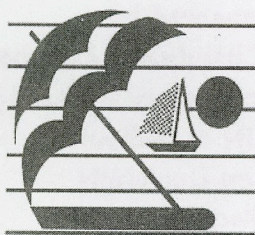
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Pasadena Estates and the Rolyat Hotel

Dear Visitors,

Welcome and thank you for your participation in our Second Annual Pink Flamingo Tour of Homes.

The 20's were boom times in Gulfport. The magnificent Rolyat hotel, the very epitome of the new Mediterranean architectural style established Gulfport as an important tourist destination. There are fascinating stories of the famous people who stayed at the Rolyat. The hotel was the inspiration for many Mediterranean Revival Homes that were built during that era. Much of the history of Gulfport was shaped behind the walls of these beautiful, massive structures.

Some of these special Mediterraneans are open for your pleasure today, mixed up for fun with a couple of 40's and 50's renovations. To top off our tour we are also showcasing the Sea Breeze Manor Bed & Breakfast and Peninsula Inn & Spa.

Feel free to visit our homes in any order you choose. The trolley does not stop directly in front of any specific home, rather at centrally located sites where homes are grouped. Public restrooms are marked on your maps. Please support the Gulfport Little League by enjoying a cool, refreshing lemonade at their "Pink Lemonade" stands placed at some of the trolley stops. We invite you to visit our charming Gulfport Village and stroll through our many quaint shops featuring unusual and sometimes one-of-a-kind gifts. Display your "Pink Flamingo" wristband and receive special discounts in selected shops. Enjoy lunch at one of our exceptional cafes or restaurants.

Don't forget to ask for "Pink Flamingo" specials prepared just for today.

I would like to thank Stetson University College of Law for lending us their courtyard and opening their historical buildings, setting the perfect stage for our event. Thanks also to the City of Gulfport for their support, help and use of the trolley, the Gulfport Historical Society especially Lynne Brown for her knowledge of Gulfport history which was invaluable for our production, my committee who worked endless hours all in good humour, and the many volunteers who made this event possible. To all say, "Thank You!".

Gulfport instills a true sense of belonging and history to all who live here. It's why it is such a special place and why everyone who lives in Gulfport cherishes and protects it.

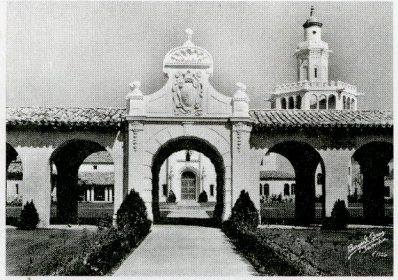
We sincerely hope you enjoy your trip through boom times Gulfport and that you will come back and visit us soon.

Welcome to Gulfport.

Michele King

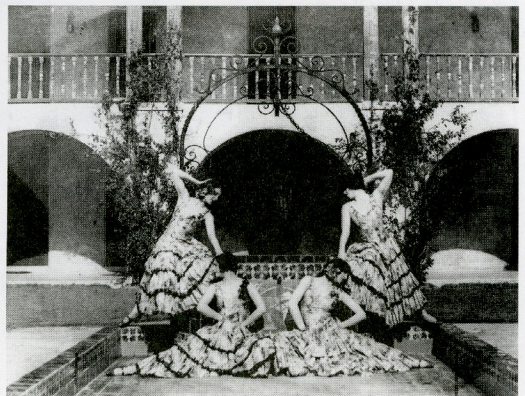
Pasadena Estates and the Rolyat Hotel (now Stetson University College of Law)

The development of Pasadena Estates was an attempt by developer Jack Taylor to create a community along the lines of Coral Gables, with handsome Mediterranean Revival homes spaced out on large lots, fronted by attractive, shady brick streets. Taylor was a mysterious personage, who had arrived in the area immediately after the hurricane of 1921 and set about acquiring all the land south of Central Avenue and west of what would become 58th Street. His purchase in March 1922, at a reputed \$270,000, was made on a \$5000 down payment from bills his wife Evelyn wore wrapped around her leg beneath her powder blue stockings.



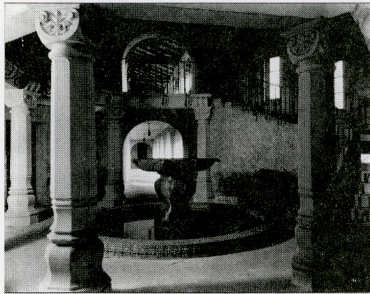
Taylor created a golf course, designed in 1923 by famed pro Walter Hagen, and arranged to build a magnificent hotel, its name to be the Rolyat, "Taylor" spelled backwards. Designed by the Miami architect Richard Kiehnel, the hotel was begun early in 1925, when a huge crew of workers arrived to live on houseboats anchored in Boca Ciega Bay. Taylor arranged for the finest materials to be shipped to the site, including floor and roof tiles from ancient Spanish monasteries, the only two privately-owned Talaveras vases in the world, rare tapestries, and specially-made tableware from Wanamaker's in New York City. A nursery was built near today's 59th Street to provide thousands of tropical plants, palms and rose bushes for the beautification of the property.

The hotel opened in January 1926, a symbol of the dreams and excesses of Boomtimes speculation. The fountains were flowing with champagne, and celebrities – Vanderbilts, Guggenheims, Babe Ruth, Ziegfeld, Morgenthau, opera singers, diplomats, socialites – packed the guest lists. But it was all just a little too late, for the Boom was over and the Bust had begun. The bottom dropped out of the Florida land market, and developers like Taylor were left holding a maze of interlocking liens and mortgages. He decamped very suddenly in 1928, and the hotel was leased to Soren Lund of St. Petersburg's Soreno Hotel.



Pasadena Estates and the Rolyat Hotel

Lund kept the place up in style during the season of 1929 with lavish receptions, luncheons, concerts, until the original construction company started foreclosure proceedings. Trying to recoup some of their losses, the company sold it to a New York group including stockbroker Walter Mendels, who added a swimming pool in 1931. In the last years of his active career, Babe Ruth stayed the season of 1932 at the Rolyat, signing his contract with Colonel Jacob Ruppert “before the spacious fireplace” and tossing a coin in the fountain to wish for a pennant for the Yankees.



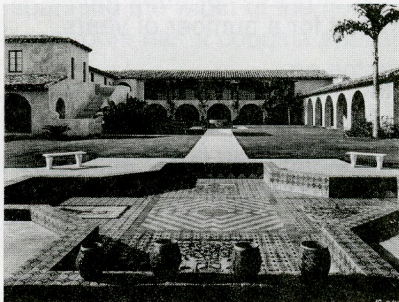
This was also the last year of the Rolyat, for Mendels had sold the hotel to the Florida Military Academy. They brought the school *en masse* in December on a train that stopped at the 64th Street crossing, and the boys walked from there, carrying all their possessions. Walter Mendels, now styling himself “Colonel,” began an active recruiting effort in Cuba, where there was revolution and unrest, and added appreciably to the one hundred or so boys now enrolled.

During World War II, Gulfport citizens manned the tower day and night, serving thousands of hours as plane spotters. After the war, Colonel Mendels’ health declined, and when he died, the Academy closed for good.

In 1954 Stetson University moved its College of Law here, and the residents of Gulfport were delighted to see the Golden Tower lit once more. We join them in celebration of their 50 years as members of our community.



—Lynne Brown





6268 - 9th Avenue South



Unlike many of the Mediterranean Revival houses, this one remained in the same family for several decades after its 1926 construction.

Marshall Fawcett, an investment broker, bought it new.

We don't know what he paid, but its assessed value at that time was \$2700!

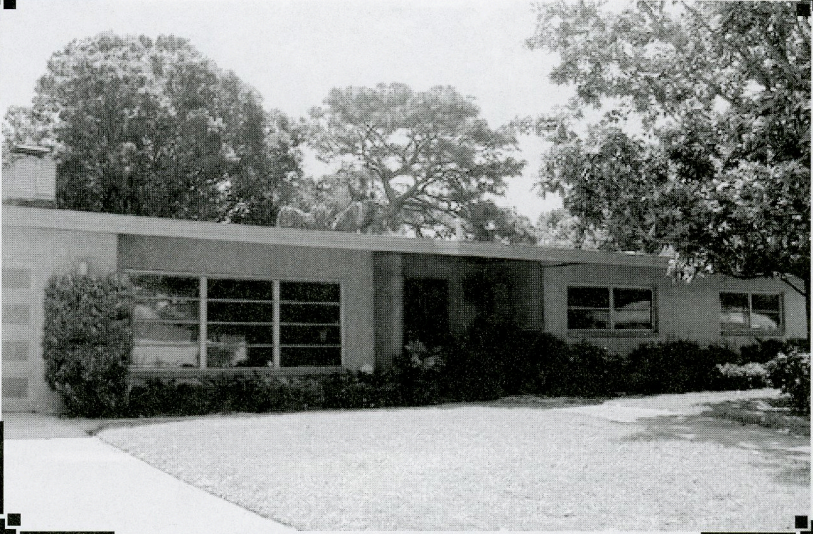
When we purchased the property in 1992, the house was in dire need of repair. An addition process had been started by the previous owner, including the family room, the guest bedroom and bath, the master bedroom and bath, and all the window seats. She passed away before it was completed, and the house stood vacant for a number of years.

We've continued with the renovations, adding the screened enclosure and the pool. During the process, we noticed a brick hearth on the floor in the upstairs sitting room. We tore down the drywall above it, and much to our surprise, discovered a fireplace. What a find!

Welcome, Robert and Joanne



926 - 62nd Street South



After 15 years, my first house in Gulfport was bursting at the seams, so I began to look around the neighborhood for something larger. I saw a house that really appealed to me, knocked on the door, and asked the homeowner if she would like to sell. She looked at me like I was crazy! I handed her my card, and said if she changed her mind to call me. About two months later she tracked me down and asked if I was still interested, which I was.

This home was originally built for a Dr. Knight in 1957. He must have been a minimalist, as there are built-ins and storage for everything in every room.

The main structural frame for the dwelling is an actual bridge beam spanning the width of the home, which is approximately 82 feet wide. The living room has a coquina shell fireplace and planter box, and, interestingly, no actual walls for furniture.

It has been my goal to maintain as much of the 1950s ambience of the home as possible. I added extensive landscaping in 2002, including a palm tree garden, for which I received an award for the most improved property from the City of Gulfport.

Welcome, Susan

3

6131 - 10th Avenue South



During the late 1930's our home was the residence of Gulfport's Mayor Clyde Foster and his wife Mabel. Foster lost his first run for mayor in 1936 by only five votes. In those days it was necessary to write out the full name of the candidate and place an "X" beside it. Several voters wrote "Foster" only, or used his initials, or forgot the "X", causing 12 ballots to be rejected. Foster pursued the issue unsuccessfully through the courts for the next year. In the fall he won the mayor's job and held the office in 1938-39 unopposed.

On December 23, 2004 we purchased our Mediterranean Revival home built in 1926. She was a "Lady" waiting for a prince to come along and save her. She has proven to be a damsel in distress. Before work could begin from between the walls we had to remove a bees nest containing a honeycomb the size of a mans torso. Despite surprises we still feel she will be worth the cost and effort.

We're sure this will be a labor of love for a lifetime.

Welcome, John and Diane

4

6326 - 10th Avenue South



In its early days, this house belonged to Warren Webster, the Pennsylvania entrepreneur and winter resident of Pass-a-Grille, whose heating systems warmed 5000 buildings across America. Among its residents over the years have been lawyers, contractors, and a Gulfport Elementary teacher.

We came upon the house by accident, looking for another house down the street, but when we first saw it, we fell in love. We've lived here for 15 years, and our four children, ages 11 to 5, were born here. It's a wonderful family house – the yard, the fruit trees, the architecture.

My realtor noticed a sign on the front steps – “Stormhaven.” (How rare to see a house with a name!) He commented that it would be a good place to weather the storms. After moving in, we learned from our neighbors, the Mills, that the house was named after a former resident, Colonel Storm. After all the years and all the various owners, the plaque has remained, preserving a bit of history for all to behold.

Welcome, Miguel and Margarita

Welcome, Meddy and Joe

5

6130 - 10th Avenue South



As soon as we moved in over July 4th, 2004, Charley, Frances and Jeanne visited us. Thankfully, there was no damage from this trio, but it was quite a Florida initiation. It's awfully romantic with all the leftover candles! Other than that, "this old house" has been a pleasure. It was renovated and waiting to welcome us as a safe haven in any weather.

Our home was one of the first built in the Boomtimes development of Pasadena Estates. The contractor was one of St. Petersburg's most prominent builders, Scott Serviss. Early residents were John and Pauline Farrar, and they were followed by a series of professional men and their families.

Like many of the Mediterranean Revival houses nearby, we have our own Babe Ruth legend. Former owner and current neighbor Claire Lanning told us that one year he rented this house for spring training. True or not, it's certainly a homerun for us Georgia peaches!

Welcome, Wes and Janese



6245 - 12th Avenue South



Maybe I should take my husband's advice and get a new career. While driving down the street from our then-current home, I spotted a For Sale by Owner sign. Being a Real Estate broker, it caught my attention. I drove up to the home and my heart started beating faster, because I spent the first eight years of my life in a Gulfport Mediterranean home and they have sentimental value to me. I've always wanted to have another Spanish home, as they hold for me so much history and charm and memories of my childhood. So I call my husband Joe, and this is when he decides I need another career.

Considering that I haven't even gotten out of the car yet and want to buy it NOW, I guess I can kind of see his point! If I worked at a dress shop or someplace similar, it wouldn't be quite so bad to be so impulsive, but . . .

Needless to say, we purchased the home. It is amazing how when you walk in, you feel all the life and memories that have filled the place for over 80 years, back to its first resident, who was a manager of the original Pasadena Estates development. Our son Christian asks, Mommy, are there ghosts in this house? I reply, I'm sure there are, but they're all good ones like Casper the Friendly Ghost!

Welcome, Maddy and Joe

7

1614 - 61st Street South



Our home was built before 1927 for James Kirk of the Kirk Soap Company in Cincinnati. According to stories that have come down through the years, the Kirks entertained such luminaries as Hollywood stars Myrna Loy and George Brent at their lavish social gatherings. In 1928 the house was sold to Harry Greene. Greene family members have claimed that the house was leased to a baseball organization, and among its occupants was Babe Ruth. The next owner, from 1933 to 1936, was Robert May of Virginia, a railroad official who had served as a bodyguard to President Wilson during World War I.

In later years it was the home of Mrs. Ella Robbins, whose great-grand-daughter visited us recently and told us that her great-grandmother said that she bought the house from Babe Ruth and had even found a box of his possessions. After Mrs. Robbins, the house was on the market for eleven years, fully furnished with beaded satin coverlets and drapes, and a baby grand Baldwin piano, which is here today.

Many 1920s houses in the Stetson area have Babe Ruth legends, none more so than this. As a newspaper article about the house said, its history is a combination of fact, lore, and opinion. Will we ever really know? Probably not.

Welcome, Sven and Kathleen

8

1808 Gray Street



Step into our 1952 Gulfport bungalow. The architecture of that era, with its curved ceilings and arched doorways, creates a mid-century mood. Hardwood floors flow through the living areas and the split bedroom plan. On one side there are two bedrooms and a bath, and on the other, we have recently added a master suite. This charming area includes a new master bath with Jacuzzi tub, vanity and special lighting.

The updated kitchen has all new appliances and tile flooring. In addition, we have completely redone the plumbing, electrical and heating/cooling systems. When you step out onto the back deck, overlooking the attractive pool and spa, the botanical decore creates the perfect setting for relaxing and entertaining.

With a home like this in beautiful Gulfport, we are in the ideal location. Why would we want to be anywhere else? We love it here and plan to stay forever.

Welcome, Roy and Vanessa



5701 Shore Boulevard



Sea Breeze Manor Bed & Breakfast Inn

In 2002 I went from being a one house plant condo dweller in Washington to owning a seven-suite inn with full tropical garden in a small waterfront artists' community known as Gulfport. This 1920's house had just been lovingly renovated from home into an inviting bed and breakfast. The Key West-style cottage had once been used as a school house for a handicapped child.

There are many antiques scattered throughout the house, as well as momentos from my travels and previous career. There are also several works from local artisans, especially in an upstairs gallery. Each suite has its own balcony or patio, giving a sense of privacy unusual for a bed and breakfast. The theme for the seven suites is tropical. Each room has a name that evokes the decor: Aruba, Barbados, Bermuda, Belize, Jamaica, Key Largo, and Key West. And no matter where you are on the grounds, there is always something blooming; from bananas to hibiscus, the manor showcases them all.

Welcome, Lori.

10

2937 Beach Boulevard



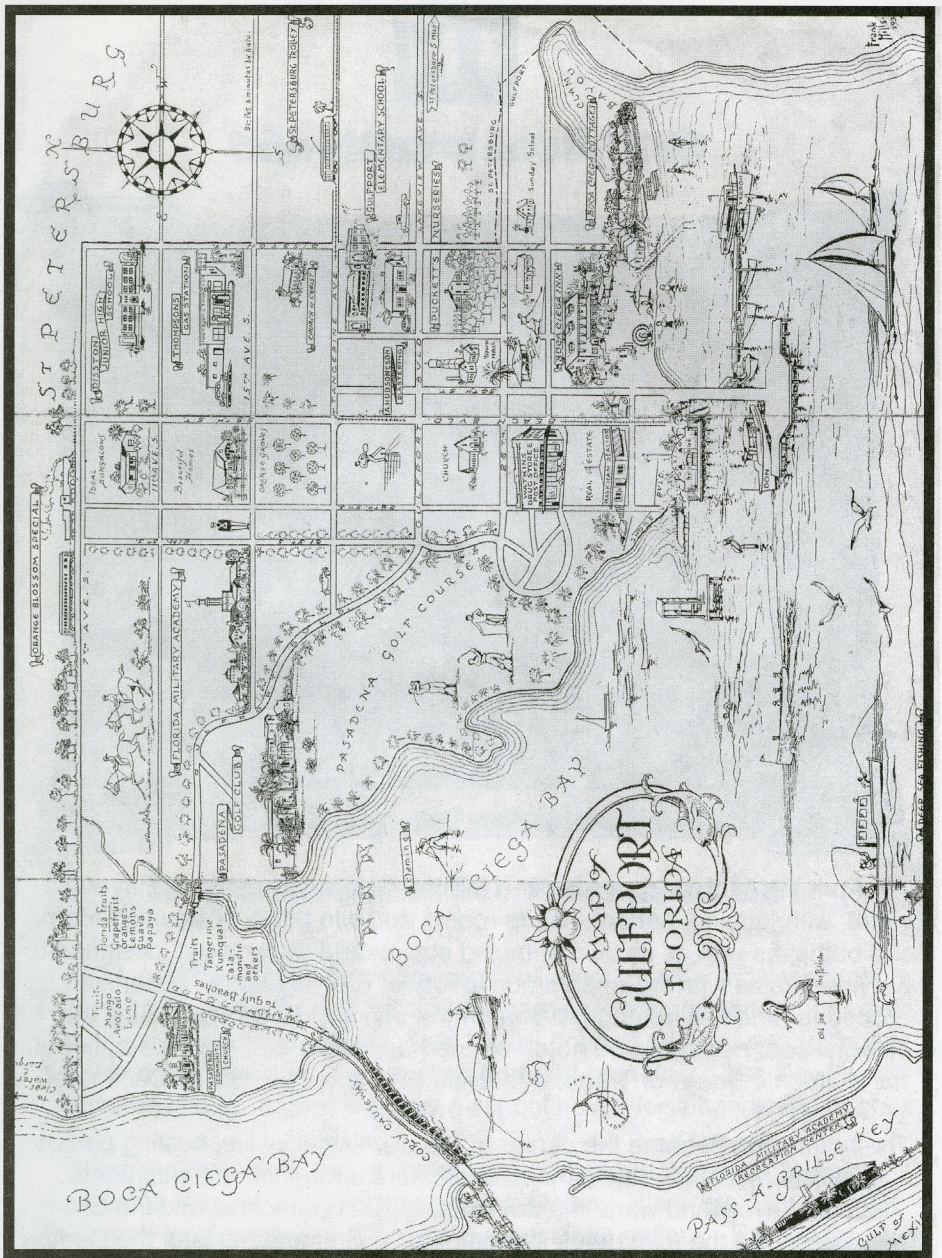
The Peninsula Inn and Spa

In April 1914, ground was broken for the “thoroughly modern” Bay View Hotel, with lobbies, parlors, dining rooms and two floors of sleeping rooms and baths, as well as its own pumping station and water tower, designed to provide guests with the uncommon luxury of running water. Advertised as offering “fine fishing and bathing on the shore of Boca Ceiga Bay,” the “magnificent new \$15,000 hotel” opened on November 12 with a banquet for Gulfport’s Board of Trade, a forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce.

The hotel soon became the center of the town’s social life, hosting parties, political meetings, and school fundraisers throughout the next three decades two world wars, the devastating 1921 hurricane, and the Great Depression. In the mid 1940s it became a “restorium” and later the Cedars Hospital.

Following a recent renovation, the lovely old Inn offers ten guest accommodations elegantly appointed with exotic furnishings from Bali, as well as a relaxing spa, and stylish dining at either the Six Tables Restaurant or the beautiful outside gardens and patio. The Peninsula is proud to be a member of the Historic Hotels of America.

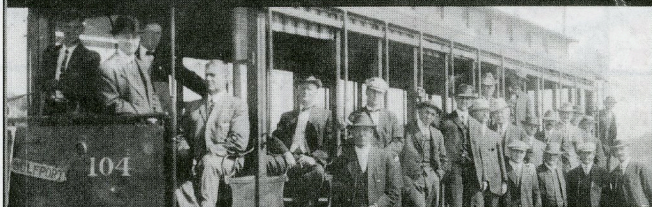
Welcome, Karen and Bob



This wonderful map was produced in 1938
 by Frank M. Mills, then of Darien CT.
 Mr. & Mrs. Mills are now longtime
 Gulfport residents.

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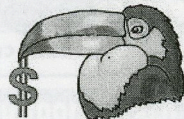
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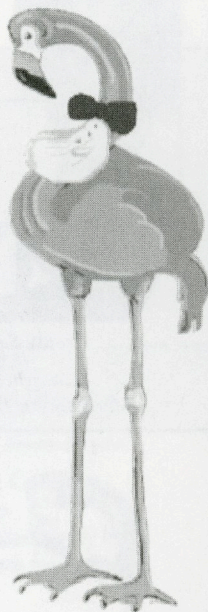
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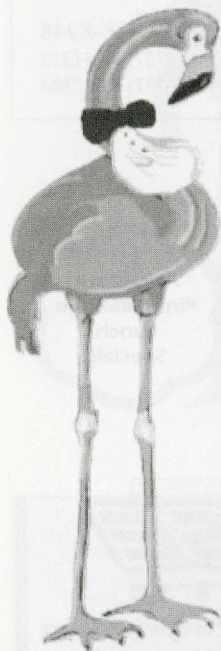
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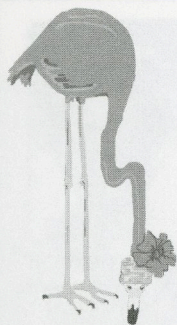
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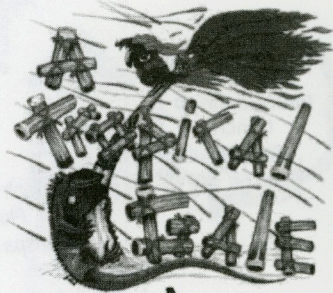
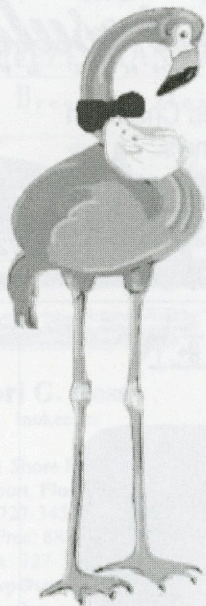
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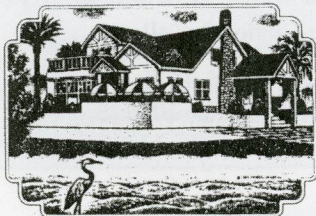
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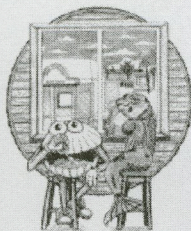
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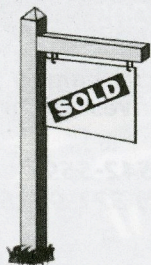
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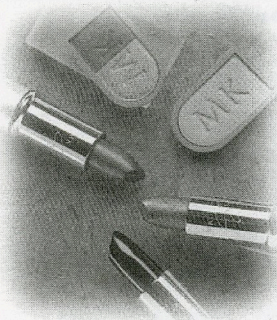
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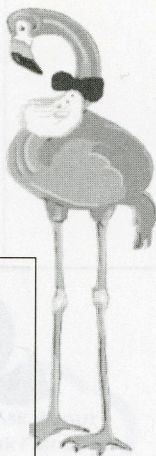


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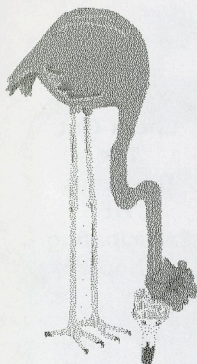
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